



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230
410-537-3000 • 1-800-633-6101

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

November 3, 2011

Dear Baltimore Harbor Stakeholder:

The federal Clean Water Act requires states to monitor the quality of their waters. For those waterbodies failing to meet water quality standards, states are required to develop TMDLs. A TMDL specifies the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and shows how pollutant loadings can be allocated among point and non-point sources.

MDE is responsible for establishing TMDLs in Maryland. Federal guidance requires states to use the best readily available data for these TMDL studies. In addition, states are required to involve the public in establishing TMDLs and typically conduct a 30-day public comment period to meet this requirement. After public review, TMDLs are submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for approval. Once approved, the TMDL provides a basis for developing a watershed strategy to achieve water quality standards.

The intent of this letter is to solicit readily available data and/or information to support the establishment of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for trash/debris in the Baltimore Harbor watershed. **If you are aware of available data and/or information pertaining to trash/debris in this watershed, please review this correspondence with care.**

The Baltimore Harbor watershed was identified as impaired by trash/debris. Any readily available data related to weight of trash removed and associated drainage area, counts of trash or other information related to trash accumulation would be helpful in the development of TMDLs for this impairment. The Maryland Department of the Environment is currently aware of the following published works from these organizations:

1. Moffatt and Nichol. 2006. *Baltimore Harbor Trash Report*. MD: Moffatt & Nichol.
2. Coastal Estuarine Hydrology and Hydraulics Engineers. 2007. *Middle Branch of the Patapsco River Trash Management Plan Baltimore, MD*. MD. URS and Moffat & Nichol.
3. Center for Watershed Protection. 2010. *The Harris Creek Small Watershed Action Plan: Restoring and Greening a Diverse Urban Community*. MD. Center for Watershed Protection.

We thank you for your participation in this endeavor. Please mail your data and/or information by November 30, 2011 to me at the above address or via email at mchatham@mde.state.md.us. If you have questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me (410-537-3937; mchatham@mde.state.md.us). You may also wish to visit MDE's web site at <http://www.mde.state.md.us/tmdl>.

Sincerely,

Melissa Chatham
Technical Review Coordinator
Science Services Administration

cc: file



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